

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 00449 141303Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 NASA-01 /019 W
-----100903 142123Z /64

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FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0292

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 0449

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA PEPR MA US
SUBJECT: NASA ISSUE AND US RELATIONS WITH DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
MADAGASCAR (DRM)

REFS: (A) STATE 039686, (B) ANT 0224 & PREVIOUS

1. I HAVE HELD OFF ASKING TO SEE PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT SOLOFOSON SINCE MY RETURN PENDING RECEIPT OF LIST BEING REVIEWED IN WASHINGTON WHICH WILL SPECIFY NASA SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT TO BE TRANSFERRED TO DRM IF AN OTHERWISE SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT CAN BE REACHED. I SEE NO POINT IN TRYING TO SEE HIM UNLESS I HAVE NEW INFORMATION TO BRING HIM, AS HE HAS HAD LAST USG POSITION IN WRITING SINCE DECEMBER. THE FACT THAT NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED MEANS EITHER THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE OR THAT DRM HAS DECIDED TO HOLD OUT FOR FIRM USG COMMITMENT OF PAYMENT OF FIXED SUM BEFORE ALLOWING INSPECTION OF FACILITIES. IF I RUN INTO SOLOFOSON SOMEWHERE, I WILL ASK HIM WHEN AND IF I CAN EXPECT A REPLY TO OUR PROPOSAL, BUT I SEE NO SENSE IN SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT FOR THAT PURPOSE.

2. WHEN LIST IS RECEIVED I WILL GO SEE HIM, AND IF HE INDICATES NO REPLY OR A NEGATIVE ONE IS FORTHCOMING TO THE PROPOSAL I LEFT WITH HIM LAST DECEMBER, I WILL GIVE HIM LIST OF EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL REVERT TO DRM, PRESENTING IT AS A COMBINATION CONCESSION AND REFINEMENT OF OUR PREVIOUS
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OFFER. I WILL ALSO SAY THAT NASA WOULD BE GLAD TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH HIM AND FURTHER EXPLAIN ITS POSITION IN WASHINGTON SHOULD HE BE WILLING TO GO THERE FOR THAT PURPOSE.

3. IN THE MEANWHILE, STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND DRM, AND OF NASA ISSUE IN PARTICULAR, CONTINUES TO BE A SUBJECT OF CURIOSITY TO MANY MALAGASY, WHEN ASKED ABOUT

LATTER, I SIMPLY SAY THAT DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE ON BOTH THE
DIVISION OF THE STATION EQUIPMENT AND A FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT.
I AM A BIT MORE FORTHCOMING WITH SOME DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES,
LETTING THEM KNOW THAT IT IS WE WHO ARE EXPECTED TO PAY
BUT THAT DRM WILL NOT ALLOW US TO INSPECT STATION WITHOUT
FIRM COMMITMENT ON AMOUNT, WHICH WE ARE, OF COURSE,
UNWILLING TO MAKE PRIOR TO INSPECTION.

4. ONLY RECENT PUBLIC MENTION OF US/DRM RELATIONSHIP
APPEARED IN MARCH 13 FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY MADAGASCAR MATIN.
A SPECIAL PAGE ON PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA'S FIRST ONE THOUSAND
DAYS IN POWER INCLUDED A REVIEW OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS. CONCLUSION WAS THAT THE "TOUS AZIMUTS"
POLICY WAS COMPLETE EXCEPT FOR RELATIONSHIP WITH USG, WHICH
WAS STILL REPRESENTED IN ANTANANARIVO AT THE CHARGE LEVEL:
"ONE QUESTION STILL WITHOUT ANSWER SINCE THE NASA TAKEOVER
ALMOST THREE YEARS AGO--WHO IS DOING THE SULKING? IT WAS
THOUGHT THAT WITH JIMMY CARTER, APPARENTLY MORE LIBERAL
THAN HIS PREDECESSOR GERALD FORD, MALAGASY/AMERICAN RELATIONS
WOULD HAVE THAWED. (BUT IT HASN'T HAPPENED)."BARRETT

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EQUIPMENT, TRACKING STATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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